



## FINGER LAKES

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

[La Tourelle Hotel, Bistro and Spa](#) in Ithaca, a beloved local gem, is undergoing renovations under new ownership, with updates to the first floor, lobby, and restaurant set to finish by March 2025. The revamped hotel will provide guests with a stylish, modern base to explore nearby attractions like [Buttermilk Falls State Park](#) and unwind at the property's luxurious August Moon Spa. The [Sciencenter](#) in Ithaca has introduced its new interactive exhibit, [Attack of the Bloodsuckers](#), offering a fascinating look into the world of parasites, mosquitoes, and ticks. Open through January 2025, this family-friendly exhibit is perfect for curious minds and young adventurers eager to learn while staying warm. For the 2024-2025 ski season, [Greek Peak](#) is implementing various upgrades to improve the ski experience for visitors. Frequent skiers will notice a widened Castor Connection for safer merging from Castor Trail, while a new online purchasing portal and new hand scanners will maximize guests' time on the slopes. Additionally, Greek Peak is in the first stage of their three-year plan to replace all rental equipment with newer models.

In Steuben County, visitors to the [Corning Museum of Glass](#) can enjoy the newly expanded 60,000-square-foot Studio, offering unparalleled opportunities to experience cutting-edge glassmaking techniques. The facility, now the only one in North America capable of casting large-scale glass works, features next-generation equipment and a new technology center to support both emerging and established artists. Additionally, the expansion includes an enhanced residency program, a two-year Glassmaking Institute certificate program, and a variety of interactive experiences for museum guests, including new glassblowing and engraving activities.

### DESCRIPTION

Winter in the Finger Lakes offers a blend of exhilarating outdoor activities, cozy indoor escapes, and unforgettable seasonal experiences. Whether compelled by a love of natural beauty or a fondness for urban excitement, travelers will find the Finger Lakes region fits their longings like a glove. Covering 9,000 square miles, the destination directly south of Lake Ontario is named for 11 pristine lakes that spread like fingers, creating a picturesque winter wonderland.

For adventure seekers, [Bristol Mountain](#) in Canandaigua delivers thrilling skiing with its impressive 1,200-foot vertical rise, while Geneva's [Seneca Lake State Park](#) provides scenic cross-country skiing trails, perfect for a peaceful winter day. Those looking to sharpen their skills can take lessons at Cortland's [Greek Peak Mountain Resort](#), one of the region's premier ski resorts. Ice fishing shanties dot the frozen landscape on [Skaneateles Lake](#) as well, making it a cozy retreat on the ice. Whether visitors are a seasoned angler or a first-timer, local guides are available to help navigate the cold waters and provide all necessary equipment.

Indoor attractions include the Opera House at [Smith Center for the Arts](#) in Geneva, which hosts a variety of performances, from concerts to dance and films. Families can explore the [Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology \(MOST\)](#) in Syracuse, which has interactive exhibits and a cutting-edge ExploraDome theater that brings science to life. The world's largest glass museum, the [Corning Museum of Glass](#), is a destination for family day trips with hot glassblowing demonstrations, 3,500 years of glass art, and exhibits including Egyptian tombs, Tiffany vases and space shuttle windows. The [Strong National Museum of Play](#) in Rochester is the world's only museum dedicated to the exploration and discovery of and features the World Video Game Hall of Fame and the world's largest playable Donkey Kong arcade machine. The [Finger Lakes Boating Museum](#) in Hammondsport is the place to learn about the wooden vessels that once dotted the lakes and their role in turning a rural region into a world-class tourist destination. The [National Soaring Museum](#) in Elmira has hands-on aviation exhibits that tell the history of motorless flight and an active soaring field at Harris Hill, the Soaring Capital of America.

With 2025 marking 200 years of the Erie Canal, it is an especially timely season to visit the [Erie Canal Museum](#) - dedicated to preserving the history of the 363-mile long waterway built to create a direct route from the Hudson River to the Great Lakes in the 19th century. Here, visitors can learn about the Syracuse and Erie Canals that played crucial roles in commercial transportation in the state in the 1800s. In Auburn, the [Harriet Tubman National Historical Park](#) offers tours of the home of the conductor of the Underground Railroad also known as "The Moses of Her People." At [Women's Rights National Historical Park](#) in Seneca Falls, explore the site of the first Women's Rights Convention (1848) including Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home and Wesleyan Chapel.

Wine lovers will delight in the Finger Lakes' renowned wineries, which offer wintery tasting experiences against the backdrop of snow-covered vineyards. In Romulus, [Buttonwood Grove Winery](#) invites guests to sip wines, sample cheeses, and enjoy chocolate by an outdoor fire, while [Dr. Konstantin Frank Winery](#) in Hammondsport offers breathtaking views paired with its famous Rieslings near a warm fireplace. At [Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard](#) in Dundee, visitors can learn about winemaking while enjoying guided tastings, and [Ravines Wine Cellars](#) in Geneva pairs its exquisite wines with seasonal bites for a cozy, intimate experience. Beer aficionados can opt for [ROC/FLX Craft Beverage Trail](#), a self-guided trail from Rochester to the western shores of Canandaigua Lake that connects nearly 40 craft beverage experiences including breweries, distilleries, wineries and cideries. [The Finger Lakes Cheese Alliance](#) counts 15 working dairy farms throughout the region, producing a full selection of artisanal cheeses as well as unique products like Irish washed-rind cheese, goat cheeses and Kefir cheese.

## **WHERE TO STAY**

Settle into one of a host of unique accommodations in the Finger Lakes, from the four historic properties that make up [Inns of Aurora](#) along Cayuga Lake to a historic octagonal home transformed into the elegant, [Black Sheep Inn and Spa](#) in Hammondsport. For a storybook getaway, [Belhurst Castle](#) in Geneva sits on picturesque Seneca Lake in the Finger Lakes wine region. The enchanting 1880s stone castle and winery hosts elegant rooms featuring four-poster beds, stained-glass windows, marble fireplaces and stunning lake views. Its real-life fairy tale amenities include complimentary wine from the spigot for castle guests, spa treatments or a special six-course food and wine pairing for two. [Ellwanger Estate B&B](#) sets itself apart with its elegant decor, warm natural woodwork, soft lighting and fresh outdoor aromas that create a serene atmosphere, enhanced by sunlight streaming through skylights. Located in Rochester's Mount Hope Cultural District, the historic estate offers four eco-friendly, smoke-free rooms and access to the stunning Ellwanger Garden, ensuring a memorable stay in a beautiful setting.

## **GETTING THERE**

- 5-6 hours from NYC
- 1-3 hours from Niagara Falls
- 5-6 hours from Montreal
- [Elmira Corning Regional Airport](#), accessible from route I-88, I-86, and bus service
- [Rochester International Airport](#), accessible from route I-90 (NYS Thruway) and bus service
- [Syracuse Hancock International Airport](#), accessible from route I-90 (NYS Thruway) and bus service

## **COUNTIES**

Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, Yates

## **MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS**

Auburn, Canandaigua, Corning, Cortland, Elmira, Geneseo, Geneva, Ithaca, Lyons, Owego, Penn Yan, Rochester, Seneca Falls, Skaneateles, Syracuse, Watkins Glen

## **CLIMATE**

The diverse climate of New York State has four distinct seasons. Summers in the Finger Lakes region are comfortable and warm, with daytime temperatures averaging in the mid-70s to mid-80s (degrees F) and cooler evenings. The weather is moderately cool and sunny in springtime and autumn, when spectacular fall foliage attracts thousands of visitors. Cold, snowy winters create a wonderland of magnificent scenery in villages, resorts and ski centers.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more travel ideas and information, visit [iloveny.com](http://iloveny.com) or the Finger Lakes' regional website: [fingerlakestravelny.com](http://fingerlakestravelny.com)

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